

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 18, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-15 are rejected to by the Examiner. In the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,642,976 to Umemoto et al. (hereinafter "Umemoto '976"). Claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,742,921 B2 to Umemoto et al. (hereinafter "Umemoto '921"). Claims 2, 4, 6 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umemoto '921.

The rejection of claims 1-15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a low refractive index layer on the light guide panel having a second refractive index which is lower than the first refractive index, reflecting the light incident to the light guide panel on the border area" (claim 1). None of the cited references including Umemoto '976 and Umemoto '921, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Umemoto '976 and Umemoto '921 structure in that neither of these reference discloses "a low refractive index layer on the light guide panel having a second refractive index which is lower than the first refractive index, reflecting the light incident to the light guide panel on the border area". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

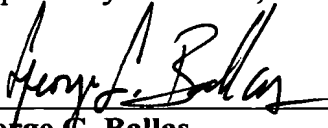
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Dated: September 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


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